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IN THE SPECIFICATION

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Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 3-15 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 2 illustrates one conventional network access device 20 that may be utilized at a central office to interface with various physical mediums. As shown in Fig. 2, a network access device will typically include one or more line interface units 22, each of which acts as a physical interface to a particular type of physical medium. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, there is a set of line interface units configured to interface with metallic links operating using one of the xDSL protocols, a set of line interface units configured to interface with metallic links operating using T1/E1 protocols, a set of line interface units configured to interface with metallic links operating using T3/E3 protocols, and a set of line interface units configured to interface with metallic links operating according to one of the cable television standards, such as DOCSIS. Each line interface unit is associated with a particular port which interconnects the network access device with the metallic link to the subscriber. A given network access device may be configured to interface with any number of physical mediums and may have hundreds or more ports.